

reading I did was done in 1971. So it really only has to be the best of my knowledge a 13 year life. The State Tort Claims Board probably ought not to be a body composed of folk who are elected officials because theoretically the State Tort Claims Board simply is examining the applicable law with respect to the appropriate facts and determining whether or not under the applicable law with respect to those facts the State of Nebraska is legally responsible or liable to the claimant or whether or not there is a reasonable possibility the State of Nebraska might be legally liable to the claimant and if so, whether or not the claim ought to be settled. To a large extent those decisions are relatively technical nonpolitical kinds of decisions so there is no need, there is no real need to add two more politicians to the State Tort Claims Board. Now as a member of the Revenue Committee I have noted that members of another political body, the State Board of Equalization and Assessment, in conjunction with the State Revenue Commissioner have been coming before the Revenue Committee with some frequency over the last year or two saying that a certain amount of the tax appeal power currently in the hands of this political body ought to be taken away from it. It ought to be given, in a sense, to the technicians, that is to the Department of Revenue because the elected officials simply do not have the background to be able to make technical decisions on some of these complicated tax issues. Well the same is true, frankly, for the State Tort Claims Board. The department heads that currently compose the State Tort Claims Board do not have to be lawyers, though some are, but they all have to have some kind of expertise in state accountability and so far as I am concerned that composition is the best composition that we can have for a State Tort Claims Board. To add political figures adds no weight. Now in truth the politics of the State Tort Claims Board are ultimately going to be handled by this Legislature because when the tort claim is ultimately allowed by the State Tort Claims Board it will come to this Legislature if the amount exceeds \$50,000 for appropriation and Senator Bill Barrett and the six other members of the Business and Labor Committee will deploy their republican skills and their democratic skills and their independent skill, if Senator Chambers was a member of that committee, and will analyze that appropriation politically and determine whether or not to allow it. That is enough politics in the process. You don't need any more. So I think this bill is an unnecessary bill and ought to be